بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ نَحْمَدُهٗ وَنُصَلِّيْ عَلٰى رَسُوْلِهِ الْكَرِيْمِ وَعَلٰى عَبْدِهِ الْمَسِيْحِ الْمَوْعُوْدِ
لَا اِلٰهَ اِلَّا اللّٰهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُوْلُ اللّٰهِ اِنَّ الدِّيْنَ عِنْدَ اللّٰهِ الْاِسْلَامُ

AHMADIYYA GAZETTE

An Official Organ of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, Inc.

AMAN 1359 RABI-US-SANEE/JAMADI-UL-AWWAL 1400 MARCH 1980

THE WORD OF GOD

1. In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful.

2. Whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth glorifies Allah, the Sovereign, the Holy, the Mighty, the Wise.

3. He it is Who has raised among the Unlettered *people* a Messenger from among themselves who recites unto them. His Signs, and purifies them, and teaches them the Book and wisdom, although they had been, before, in manifest misguidance;

4. And *among* others from among them who have not yet joined them. He is the Mighty, the Wise.

5. That is Allah's grace; He bestows it on whom He pleases; and Allah is the Master of immense grace.

6. The likeness of those who were made to bear the *law of* Torah, but would not bear it, is as the likeness of an ass carrying *a load of* books. Evil is the likeness of the people who reject the Signs of Allah. And Allah guides not the wrongdoing people.

7. Say, 'O ye who are Jews, if you think you are the friends of Allah to the exclusion of *all* other people, then wish for Death, if *indeed* you are truthful.'

8. But they will never wish for it, because of that which their hands have sent on *before them*. And Allah knows full well those who do wrong.

9. Say, 'The Death from which you flee will surely meet you. Then will you be returned unto Him Who knows the unseen and the seen, and He will inform you of what you had been doing.'

(The Holy Quran 62:1-9)

A CRY IN THE WILDERNESS OF CIVILIZATION

The Promised World Teacher of all Religions and Holy Founder of Ahmadiyyat the True Islam published the following in 1905.

"Death shall prevail to an extent that rivers of blood shall flow and birds and beasts would not be immune from it. So much destruction shall be wrought that since the creation of the world it had never come to pass. Most habitations shall be entirely blotted out of existence, as if they had never been inhabited. And there shall appear other kinds of visitations, some in the earth, some in the atmosphere. So much so that these things will appear extraordinary to man of understanding and no explanation in respect of them would be forthcoming from books of Science, Astronomy or Philosophy. Then shall mankind be struck with terror, wondering what is going to happen.

Many shall be saved and many shall be ruined. Those days are near, even at the door. The world shall witness the Day of Judgment. Not only earthquakes but other kinds of frightful calamities too would appear, some from heaven, some from the earth. This will happen because mankind has entirely ignored the Worship of its true God, and is serving the world with all its thoughts, with all its heart and with all its energy. Those who repent shall be saved and mercy shall be shown to those who fear before the approach of the visitation. Do not think you will be immune from these earthquakes and will protect yourself by your efforts. Never! That day shall be the end of all human precautions. O Europe! Thou art not safe, nor thou Asia. Ye dwellers of the islands, no artificial god shall help you. I see cities tumbling and inhabited places in ruin. The one true God kept quiet for a long time; hateful deeds were done before His eyes and He remained silent. But now He will show His face with great terror. He who hath ears to hear, let him hear that, that time is not far. I tried to bring all men under the protection of God; but it was destined that the decrees of fate should be fulfilled.

The age of Noah shall come before your eyes and the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah shall you witness yourselves. But God is slow in showing His wrath; repent that mercy may be shown to you. He, who forskaes God is worm—not a man—and he who does not fear Him is dead—not living." (*Haqeeqatul wahy*, pp. 256-257)

Cont'd. on page 11

YAOMI MASIH MAUOOD OR THE PROMISED MESSIAH DAY

All the Presidents of the Ahmadiyya Jamaats are reminded that it was on the 23rd of March, 1889 that Hazrat Ahmad the Promised Messiah and Mahdi formally founded the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam by taking Baiat-pledge of allegiance for initiating into the fold of Ahmadiyyat. Hence, this day of 23rd March known in the history of Ahmadiyyat as YAOMI MASIH MAUOOD or the Promised Messiah Day must be marked by convening the meetings and explaining therein the claims of Hazrat Ahmad as the Promised Messiah and Mahdi and its proofs from the Holy Quran and the traditions of the Holy Prophet. The services rendered by the Promised Messiah to the cause of Islam should also be explained to the audience of all denominations who should be requested to attend meetings by special invitations. The reports of these meetings are required for publication in the *Gazette*.

Editorial

MONTH OF MARCH

No doubt all the months of the year occur in accordance with the law of nature created by the Omniscient God yet we cannot deny the fact that certain months do have greater effects on the lives of communities as some remarkable events did take place in them.

To the Ahmadies the month of March is full of magnificent events and reminds them of remarkable signs of God manifested to prove the superiority of Islam over all other religions.

In the first place it was during the month of March that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of God be upon him) delivered his farewell address on the occasion of his last pilgrimage which we published in the February issue of the *Gazette*. This address was a charter of human liberties in which mutual respect for life and property was sanctified, old feuds and interest payments were written off and complete equality between mankind was declared.

Secondly, it was in this month on 23rd of March that Hazrat Ahmad the Promised Messiah and Mahdi the Holy Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam founded the Ahmadiyya Community when he took the Baiat—the pledge of allegiance from his devotees and thus distinguished them from other Muslims for sincerely obeying the injunctions of the Holy Quran and faithfully following the Sunnat and Hadith—the practice and sayings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of God be upon him).

No doubt the Promised Messiah had already been receiving the revelations and the fulfillment of his various prophecies had made the people to gather around him, who perceiving through him the regeneration of Islam asked him for initiation; yet he hesitated to declare himself a Commanded one, till he received the revelation to that effect and acted accordingly.

With the advent of Ahmadiyyat the True Islam the world experienced an astounding revolution. The Christiandom hopes to engulf Muslims into Christianity shattered into pieces. Day by day ecclesiasticism started to retreat before the strong arguments and fresh heavenly signs presented by the Promised Messiah, the dawn began to brighten and the night star started to wane.

Thirdly, it was in this month on 6th of March in 1897 that an arch enemy of Islam Pandit Lekhram an extremist Arya Smajist (a sect of modern Hunduism especially poisoned in its attitude towards Islam) met his doomsday in accordance with a prophecy made by the Promised Messiah the Holy Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam and given wide publicity. The remarkable fulfillment of the prophecy proved beyond any shadow of doubt that Islam is the right religion, that Promised Messiah Hazrat Ahmad has actually been raised by God to manifest the truth of Islam by the fresh signs of the Living God.

Fourthly, it was in this month on the 14th of March, 1914 that the ship of Ahmadiyyat was steered by the Almighty God Himself to the haven of safety by manifesting His Second manifestation with the election of Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad the Promised Son of the Promised Messiah as Khalifatul Masih II at a time when the advocates of so-called Western democracy in order to achieve their own ends left no means unapplied to dash the Community against the rock of destruction.

We the Ahmadies who have witnessed the fresh signs of the Living God and have experienced the powers of our Almighty Allah are sure of the final victory of Islam through Ahmadiyyat, yet the path before us is not strewn with roses. Each and every Ahmady must live an exemplary life. We must devote ourselves for the service of Islam by conveying the beauties of Islam to the other people and by removing the misunderstandings so falsely propagated by the prejudiced priests and some bigot Mullas against this religion and its Holy Founder Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

While we celebrate MASIH MAUOOD DAY on 23rd March by convening the meetings and explaining therein the services rendered by the Promised Messiah the Holy Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam for the cause of Islam and its Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of God be upon him), simultaneously, we should renew our faith in the Promised Messiah and must double our efforts to complete his mission of establishing the Unity of God and the Messengership of His Prophet—the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

ALLAHUM MANSUR MAN NASARA DEENA MUHAMMADIN SALLALLAHU ALAIHI WA SALLAM WA JA'ALNAA MINHUM WAKHZUL MAN KHAZALA DEENA MUHAMMADIN SALLALLAHU ALAIHI WA SALLAM WA LAA TAJ'ALNAA MINHUM—O Allah! Help those who helped the religion of Muhammad, peace and blessings of God be upon him, and make us of them; and disgrace those who disgraced the religion of Muhammad, peace and blessings of God be upon him, and put us not among such peoples. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All the Presidents of the Jamaats are requested to dispatch the reports of their Jamaat's activities before the 20th of each month for publication in the subsequent issue of the *Ahmadiyya Gazette*.

LEARN ARABIC

"I used to admonish the members of my Community that they should learn Arabic, for without the study of Arabic they can derive no benefit from the Holy Quran. In order to understand the Holy Quran it is necessary and proper that they should make some effort to learn Arabic. In these days many facilities have become available for learning Arabic. It is the duty of every Muslim to study the Holy Quran. It is not right, therefore, that no attention should be paid to the learning of Arabic, and one's whole life should be devoted to the learning of English and other languages." (Malfoozat of the Promised Messiah, V. I, p. 285)

THE PROMISED MESSIAH AND THE HOLY QURAN

By Maulana Abul Ata

Exceptions are taken about both the real and the false prophets of God. The history of mankind has been thuswise always. The controversy that develops around a true messenger is, of course, quite comprehensible; for the advent of such a person in a world, laden, as it always is on such occasions, by sin—which the Divine Messenger is destined to expurgate—gives rise to intense opposition against one who will not share in the sin. In the Holy Quran, however, certain criteria are given by the application of which a true claimant to prophethood can be tested. One among these is that almost invariably such a person is asked to give precisely those signs and prophetic indications which people of other times have asked for from other true prophets, however distant they may be in age or clime. In the main, such requirements of the unbelieving were based on utter ignorance, such as the demands of the Arabs that before they could accept the Prophet Muhammad, he should produce houses made of gold or show them that he could rise heavenwards in his physical body. It is really begging the question to assert that such requirements do not come from intellectual people. Such bizzare demands were also made by the people before they could accept the ministry of the Promised Messiah. We must, therefore, revert to the Holy Quran to substantiate the proof of the claims of the Promised Messiah.

The tests which the Quran gives us are of two kinds: one is of the category which relates to the circumstances and conditions of the time in which a Divine Messenger is sent, and the other is of that class which appertains to his personality. In what follows, both are detailed.

The first test is the circumstances and conditions of life in the world which necessitate the advent of such a Messenger. The conditions and circumstances when such an advent occurs is when wickedness is glorified, sin has conquered the hearts of men, mankind lives a life neither of respect nor honour, when promises are brittle, when fires of a sensitive spiritual experience are no longer aglow, and an age of darkness covers the materialistic sons of Adam. The advent of the Promised Messiah was indicated by these and other factors. Can any one doubt that the wretchedness of these conditions did not obtain: and when such affairs arise, is it not their logical conclusion that a Torch Bearer should appear to dispel the gloom of sin and wickedness, and what is more, to protect the law of the Holy Prophet against those who are marching, phalanx after phalanx, bent on the destruction of his holy name? This, then, proves the first test.

The second test is to see what other signs the Quran gives us which will usher a Messiah in our midst. It will be the time, says the Book, when the sun and the moon will be eclipsed, when the rivers would be divided, when literary leaflets will be published in abundance, when the Doctors of Religious Law will be devoid of spirituality, when the shooting stars will be seen more frequently, when the means of transport will make the intermixing of various peoples easier, are all clearly pointed out. All these signs were marked down for an epoch when the advent of Messiah will take place. The Holy Prophet himself spoke of the time when the new methods of travel will render the camels useless as beasts of burden. We are witness to all the foregoing manifestations in the life of man. Are all these items which were ear-marked as denoting the time for the appearance of the Messiah not visible to every one of us? During such time has come forth the Promised Messenger of God, to fulfil what has been said before.

The third point concerns with the personal conduct of the man who professes to be the Bearer of God's words. In the Quran we find God saying to the Prophet Muchammad that he was to proclaim that in his personal behaviour he was the most elite, the most God-fearing, the most righteous of them all. Regarding this, let there be no confusion that this purity of personal dealing relates to a life-period prior to the actual claim of prophetship being launched, thereby indirectly proving that the stainless years of such a person warranted his being believed as inspired of Allah, when he did lay claim to his celestial mission.

The seekers after truth recognise a true prophet as does a mother recognise her sons. In ordinary methods of justice, the chastity of a mother furnishes sufficient proof that a certain child is a legitimate son of her husband: in the same way, a blameless life which a man may have lived before his actual claim provides a cogent reason for believing that in his claim to prophethood he is not false. The Holy Prophet once asked the people of Quraish: "How did you find me before?" Without exception they attested to his being uniformly truthful and an embodiment of grace and goodness; but when he launched his ministry, the very kinsmen of his who had vouched for his goodness turned against him.

Let us apply this test to the life of the Promised Messiah. His earlier life is a challenge to all wickedness and sin, his years of piety and fruitful living were acknowledged; he was always slow to speak ill of any man. People knew him as a good man of high virtues. This was his reputation before he proclaimed his mission. Even his bitterest enemies owned to his being "a man of worthy endeavour, truth-loving and at all times abiding by the laws of the Prophet." Another great divine who did not love him over much after his proclamation asserted that he as a young man often walked to Qadian to be blessed by "beholding his sacred face." Do these facts not prove, if proof were needed, that the claims of the Promised Messiah rest on solid foundation?

The next point is that God helps His Messengers and their followers both in this world and in the next. Also the Quran points out that the enrolling of so many millions of men in the religion of Allah unequivocally provides both the strength of the faith and the help that

Cont'd. on page 11

A GLIMPSE OF THE SERVICE RENDERED BY THE PROMISED MESSIAH TO THE HOLY QURAN

By Maulvi Abdul Hakeem Jauza

The Holy Quran being the Book revealed by God, occupies an exalted place among all other religious scriptures. Its teachings have such a flexible nature that all human-beings, living on any part of the globe, can fulfill their spiritual needs through it. Although coming ages may beget different sorts of urges, and the civilization and culture may appear in any kind of new form, yet the Quranic teachings will remain as effective throughout as they hitherto been experienced.

God's wisdom had decided, from the very beginning, to reveal in His own words, this very Book, and also to safeguard it by all means, after its revelation. In quite clear and manifest words, we read, in the Holy Quran, Almighty God's decision, "Verily, We ourself have sent down this Exhortation, and most surely We will be its Guardian (15:10)," which is related to the promise of protecting the Quranic text as well as its teachings. Accordingly, from the time of the Holy Prophet (peace be on him) down to the present age, through the efforts of "Huffaz" the Quranic text has remained safe and uncorrupted by human hands. As for the protection of its teachings, Almighty God raised spiritual Revivalists in each and every century.

What I am going to deal with, in this article, is that, for the fulfillment of the above mentioned Divine Promise, the Promised Mesiah (peace be on him) was raised in this age; and the service which he rendered, for this noble cause, is unprecedented in the Islamic History.

But, directly plunging into the theme it would be most appropriate to describe first the attitude of Muslims towards the Holy Quran before the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) appeared as a reformer of this age. So it is briefly stated that they had fabricated false notions on account of interpreting wrongly some verses of the Sacred Quran, and attributing incorrect meanings to certain Arabic words of the Holy Text. For instance, it was believed that Christ (peace be on him) was physically ascended to the heaven at the time of crucifixion. It is regrettable that the word "Mutawaffi" used by the Quran in this context which literally means 'death,' was given such a meaning which Arabic lexicon totally refutes. Moreover, the interpreters of the Holy Quran who could not explain some complicated verses, and failed to remove the contradictions which appeared to them but did not exist as a matter of fact, claimed that such and such verses were abrogated by this verse and that one.

Another false notion, attributed to the Holy Quran, was that the present order and arrangement of chapters and verses of the Holy Quran had got no concern whatsoever with divine guidance and revelation. Moreover the so-called interpreters were misled to hold that the Holy Quran mentioned stories of the past peoples for nothing but just to sound an alarm to the addressed-ones that dis-obedience to a God's messenger would result in fatal consequences. This belief of short, the glory and splendour of the Quranic teachings, gradually faded away due to the false interpretations and corrupt attempts and practices used by ignorant and unlettred Muslim Clergy.

This kind of atmosphere was prevailing in the field of Quranic cnovictions when there appeared the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) with a mission to protect and serve the Holy Quran with respect to its meanings.

Hazrat Ahmad, the Promised Messiah (peace be on him), whom Almighty God Himself had taught spiritual knowledge, interpreted the various verses of the Holy Quran; and the interpretation of the opening chapter, Surat-ul-Fatiah, is one of his most remarkable performances. The manner in which the interpretation has been presented by the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) is mostly a new one and subject to a sound logic. The removal of the false notions, attributed to the Holy Quran, and the new interpretation made according to certain principles, form a great accomplishment, the credit of which goes to the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) of this age.

Now I would briefly present the principles laid down by the Respected Hazrat Ahmad, the blessed Mahdi, for the correct interpretation of the Holy Quran, by virtue of which Quranic splendour and glory becomes manifest.

1. The Promised Messiah (peace be on him) declared in his writings that to attribute to some verses the notion of abrogation was a belief as false and corrupt as any thing; and if the belief in abrogation was held true, trust in the whole of the Quran would become doubtful. The presentation of this principle or, say, belief caused the protection of the Quran, and also granted excellence to the interpretation.

2. Another principle stated by him is that the present arrangement of the chapters and verses of the Holy Quran lies in accordance with the certain order which is really subject to divine guidance and revelation. Some previous interpretations of a notable verse of the Holy Quran:

"When Allah said, 'O Jesus I will cause thee to die (a natural death) and will exalt thee to Myself" (3:56). The Promised Messiah (peace be on him) by virtue of this belief of arrangements, proved the death of Jesus Christ through this verse by arguing that the word 'Mutawafika' precedes the word 'Rafiuka.' This precedence, he asserted, points out that death was to occur to Christ before being blessed with elevation. In a word, if the interpretation of the Holy Quran is subjected to the above mentioned belief no contradiction will emerge in the meanings.

3. The third principle is that the past stories or events, that have been narrated by the Holy Quran, as a matter of fact, contain in them the prophecies of future. Some non-Muslims who wrote too much against Islam, endeavoured their utmost to weaken the dignity of the Holy Quran by their false statements that the Muslim spiritual Law was lar-

Cont'd. on page 9

PROPHECIES OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH

The Promised Messiah had a record figure of nearly three hundred thousand dreams, visions and revelations. A great many of these had come to be true during his own lifetime. Several more were fulfilled during the period of the second Khilafat. It is difficult to account all of these in a short space but we could give a selected few of these prophecies which were fulfilled in Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II's time.

1. Prophecy of the Progress of the Community

"I shall make you known with honour and dignity to the ends of the earth. Your name shall be exalted and your love shall be planted in the hearts of the people."

"I shall cause thy message to reach the corners of the world."

When the Promised Messiah had these revelations there was not a single Ahmadiyya Mission in any other country than India. Hazrat Khalifatul Massih II established nearly 152 missions all over the world where the Ahmadiyya Missionaries are busy converting people to Islam. There are scores of Missions in African countries. There are mosques everywhere. Our Jamaats are in the big cities of the United States, in Canada, South America, West Indies, England, Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Spain and Scandinavia. In the Far East, there are the thriving centres in Singapore, Malaya, Indonesia and Fiji Islands. We have our communities in China, Japan, Afganistan, Iran, Arabian territories. One can easily see how this prophecy is being fulfilled.

2. The Prophecy About the First Great War

The Promised Messiah in one of his poems drew the attention of the world to a great sign that was to be shown. In it he informed them that the punishment of God was about to descend when the earth would be shaken terribly and the earthquake would completely overturn it. There would be streams of blood and everybody would be scared with fear.

This prophecy was fulfilled in Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II's time by the war of 1914-18. Some people have objected that the war was not an earthquake. It should be remembered that disasters in war and earthquakes are similar except that in an earthquake the bloodstreams don't flow. The bodies are covered under the debris and as such no blood is visible. The earthquake mentioned in the prophecy refers only to an annihilating war and this war came soon after the death of the Promised Messiah.

3. The Prophecy About the Fall of The Czar

"Even the Czar would be in a mourning condition at that moment."

The prophecy was fulfilled in 1917 during the revolution in Russia. Czar, the great Emperor of Russia, was away visiting his forces near the Front. In his absence the revolutionaries rose and outdid the Czarists in Moscow. Czar returned to his capital much against the wish of his well-wishers. On the way back he was arrested and forced to sign his abdication of the throne. On 21st March, 1917, he was put in the prison along with his family. On 16th July, 1918, he was awakened at midnight and the guard read the death sentence passed on him and his family. Thereafter the guard with his torch light shot a pistol fire at the Czar. This was followed by shooting his son, wife, the four daughters, his doctor and his servants all one after the other.

4. The Prophecy of the Arrival In Damascus

The Promised Messiah had said in explaining the tradition of the Holy Prophet that he or one of his Khalifas would visit Damascus.

In 1924, on his way to London, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II visited Damascus and thus the prophecy was fulfilled.

5. The Prophecy of the Speech in London

The Promised Messiah had seen in a dream that he was standing on a platform and giving a speech in English on the beauties of Islam.

This prophecy was fulfilled when, in 1924 his son, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II journeyed to London and his paper on Ahmadiyyat or the True Islam was read to the audience in the Living Religions of the World Conference at the Imperial Institute.

6. The Prophecy About the Martyrdom of Ahmadis in Afghanistan

"Three goats shall be slaughtered."

This prophecy was fulfilled during Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II's time when in 1924-25 three of our Ahmadi brethren received their martyrdom at Kabul from the hands of King Amanulla Khan who stoned them to death only because they professed Ahmadiyya faith.

7. The Prophecy About Nadir Shah

"Ah! Where is Nadir Shah."

This prophecy is also concerned with Afghanistan. In 1929 King Amanullah Khan had to flee for his life when Bacha Saka's forces occupied Kabul. At that time Nadir Khan, who had retired from generalship of Afghanistan's army, was invited by the people of that country from Paris, to free them from tyranny of Becha Saka. He came back, rallied his forces at Khost, and attacked Kabul, where Becha Saka was defeated and killed. Nadir Khan was then crowned as the King of Afghanistan. On acceding to the throne Nadir Khan announced that he should be known by the name of Nadir Shah.

Later on, on 8th November, 1933 in the day light a person called Abdul Khaliq assassinated Nadir Shah in a huge crowd. This untimely and sudden death of Nadir Shah made not only the people of Afghanistan but of the entire world to utter these words spontaneously: "Ah! Where is Nadir Shah."

(The Muslim Herald, London January, 1966)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

All the members are requested to inform in writing to the Editor whenever any change takes place in their addresses.

LAJNA IMA ULLAH

THE HOLY PROPHET MUHAMMAD AS HUSBAND

By Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad (May Allah be pleased with him)
(Continued from January issue)

II

After the demise of the Lady Khadija the Prophet married Ayesha and Sauda at Mecca and took to several others at Medina as a matter of expediency and not for the sake of luxury. Thus his domestic life became a complicated one. But as husband of numerous wievs too, the Holy Prophet acquitted himself creditably and dealt even-handed justice to all. Each of his wives had her independent establishment and received fair and just treatment at the hands of their illustrious husband. His time, attention, gifts, allowance, etc., so evenly distributed between His different wives that none of them could discover, at least from his behaviour and conduct, who was his favourite. The result was so trying for him that his earthly life presented the picture of a "tavern" thus exemplifying in his own person the truth of his maxim, "The world is like a tavern where you pass a few days, like a traveller on the journey, of your earthly existence."

HIS PRAYER

But in spite of all his sense of fairplay and justice he often used to pray: "Oh my Lord! I am trying to do the utmost degree of justice and fairplay to my wives. But if, in spite of my best endeavour if Thou has found anything amiss in me in respect to the discharge of my duty, do Thou grant me pardon and take me under Thy protection. Amen!" It will, however, be a mistake to think that he was altogehter indifferent to the virtues and qualities of his partners and was completely unresponsive to the emotional aspect of nature as his biographers bear testimony to the fact that he had special admiration and attachment for one or two of his wives but emotional element in him played only the second role and was completely subordinated to the rational element of justice nad fairplay. So overpowering was his sense of justice and fairplay that even in his last illness when the angel of death was knocking at the door he would scrupulously keep his "turn" at the apartment of each of his wives, till at last, out of pity for his health, his wives excused their "turn" and allowed him to stay at the apartment of the Lady Ayesha. So great was his sense of impartiality that on one occasion there arose a friction almost bordering on quarrel between the Lady Ayesha on one side, and some other wives on the other. The quarrel took a serious turn there was hot exchange of words, although the former was more or less on the defensive. The Holy Prophet, in spite of his attachment for the Lady Ayesha and despite his full knowledge that justice lies on her side, preferred to keep silent lest he should be accused of partisanship, as he knew that such open advocacy would sow the seed of misunderstanding and estrange the feeling of his other consorts. On another occasion, referring to this matter, he said to Ayesha "Dearest! I knew that justice lay on your side. As long as you kept silent angels replied to the arguments of your opponents but when you took up your own cause, the angels deserted you."

By his conversation and talks he did everything in his power for the education of his consorts, in conformity with the well-known teaching of the Holy Quran, "O ye people, save yourselves and the members of your family from the fire of ignorance," i.e., one should save oneself and one's family from all sins of omission and commission. He was himself the embodiment of this principle. It was certainly the outcome of this teaching and strict vigilance over the conduct of his wives, that each of them became a model of character.

III

Some scandal-mongers spread calumny about the character of Ayesha, which became the source of poignant sorrow and grief to the Holy Prophet. Addressing Ayesha, the Holy Prophet said: "Ayesha, if you are pure of heart, certainly God will clear you of the scandal and vindicate your prestige. But if there is the slightest stain on your character, if you, consciously or unconsciously, have stumbled, even to the slightest degree, confess and repent, and beg pardon of Allah, for your shortcoming and rest assured that God will take pity on you, and pardon you all your trespasses." These words of the Prophet came as a bolt from the blue and broke her heart. The very thought that she had become target of suspicion of even her beloved partner of life, the noblest soul on earth, made her grief all the more painful and almost unbearable. She kept silent for a while and retreatd from the place saying, "Forbearance is the best course open to me. Verily I seek protection of Allah in the matter of your allegation, and beseech Him to redeem me of this charge." This was certainly a case of misunderstanding on the part of Ayesha, because of all men on earth the Holy Prophet Muhammad would be the last to entertain the slightest suspicion about the fidelity of his consort. What the holy Prophet did was to enunciate a general principle, which was taken amiss by the Lady Ayesha and brought extreme sorrow to her. But it was not long before a revelation was received by Muhammad, absolving Ayesha of all charges, which gladdened the Prophet's heart, and forthwith he hastened to the apartment of his consort and congradulated her on her redemption. Ayesha said, in a tone, mingled with joy and grief, "I do not thank any human being for this redemption. I rather thank God, that He has rescued me out of this impasse." This is another misunderstanding but look to the devotion of his consorts towards God and spirit of complete reliance nad trust upon His beneficence which also stands to the credit of the teachings and admonitions of the Holy Prophet.

The Holy Prophet often used to say to his wives, "Your status is not like that of ordinary believing women. for reason of your intimate association with me, the burden of your responsibility has become all the heavier. So you should set yourself as models to other believing women. Remember, you occupy an enviable position, in being the spiritual mother, just as I am the spiritual father

Cont'd. on page 9

ATFALUL AHMADIYYA

AHMADI CHILDREN ARE THE MOST LUCKY CHILDREN

English version of the address delivered by Hazrat Ameerul Momineen Hafiz Mirza Nasir Ahmad Khalifatul Masih III at the Annual Rally of Atfalul Ahmadiyya on Octoer 20, 1979 at Rabwah, Pakistan.

Hazrat Ameerul Momineen Khalifatul Masih III recited Tashahhud, Ta'awwuz and Sura Fatiha and then said:

. . . You are Atfalul Ahmadiyya—those children who have been born in Jamaat Ahmadiyya, and are between the age of seven to fifteen years. There is much difference between one child and another. Similarly, there is a big difference between a Tifl and another Tifl. The whole world is inhabited with men. Men of the whole world produce children. Atfal live in all countries. A part of the world's Atfal are between the age of seven to fifteen years.

There are some such Atfal in the world who realize the fact that their future and their subsequent lives are in darkness and failure. As was the case of the children of African countries in the last two centuries that, they always had the fear, that at any time the white Christian nations may not seize, enslave and take them to their countries. These nations snatched hundreds of thousands of children from their parents, and at times enslave them along with their parents and other grown ups and took them to America. They were terribly persecuted. For instance, they were forced to labour for sixteen hours continuously. Such a young child, pointing out to a child sitting in front of him, Khalifatul Masih said, "and even children weaker than him in health were forced to labour sixteen hours. The children were slaves to the agriculturists in their farms and slaves to the industrialists in their factories. So, there are children of this category in the world even in this present age who have no future at all and they are aware of it." Khalifatul Masih exhorted the Ahmadi children to thank God the Exalted that they are not of those who had the fear that they would be enslaved and sold in any market of the world. It is said, Khalifatul Masih continued, that there are still some slave markets carried out secretly, where the abducted children are taken and sold. Nevertheless, as far as my knowledge is concerned, through the grace of God none of the Ahmadi children have become the target of this oppression.

Again, there are some children whose future is not as dark as of those mentioned earlier. They are given superficial education. For instance, during the British rule when they started education, they said, just educate them up to matriculation and engage them as clerks. They should do calculation work and other menial jobs of the government. We are of high class they asserted, we and our children cannot do such menial works. In other words, they imparted a little knowledge but look down upon them, disgraced them, paid them lower wages and hired them for a very lengthy period. Therefore, some children of the world, the children of some nations and the children of some areas had to pass through such conditions for a century and others for two centuries.

However, Khalifatul Masih remarked, you are Ahmadi children. You are not of children of this second category, hence, you should thank God that you are not of those type of children.

Again, there are some children who in their curriculum of education are taught that there is no God. This course is merely to take their minds away from God. They poisoned the minds of the children with vain and curious verbiage, while we knew and our children too knew that Allah does exist and He loves His servants.

In 1974 when the Jamaat was suffering, Khalifatul Masih said, he used to spare almost six to seven hours daily in meeting the members of different Jamaats who called upon him. He heard their troubles and consoled them and tried to ward off their worries and consequently their faces started to beam with smiles. As their children as young as you are in this rally accompanied them also. He—Khalifatul Masih used to ask the children. Have they seen a true dream? Then a lot of children used to stand up and say, yes they have dreamed. God the Exalted discloses to a child in the language of the child. A child will not be told the theory of Einstein or the new research on which Dr. Salam has got the Nobel Prize. God will not disclose to a child of which he can neither make head nor tail. God's love with a child is to disclose to him what he can understand. For instance, a child stood up and said that their she-buffalo was pregnant and he saw in a dream that it has delivered a female. This is the language of the child. A baby in the belly of a she-buffalo is not known whether it is male or female. It is God alone who knows. And in accordance with the dream the delivery of a male or a female points out to the fact that the Being who showed the dream is the Knower of the unseen. He knows the baby of a she-buffalo when it is in the darkness of the belly. God showed His love with an Ahmadi child to disclose that He has deep love with this Jamaat. Hence, prepare yourselves to acquire His love.

As the current of the electricity went off, Khalifatul Masih availing the time took a sip of green tea without cream and then said to the children sitting close to him. It is green tea without cream. There is no sugar in it. It is only hot. If it is poured in the mouth of any one among you, he will say: What is this! It is tasteless. Yet is is useful for him—Khalifatul Masih. It keeps the throat warm, hence, he has taken a sip. Most of us, Khalifatul Masih continued, are accustomed to bear hardship. It is nothing. It is just a tasteless tea without cream. He can even chew a tablet of quinine. Once, Khalifatul Masih said, he asked his friend to eat it and he agreed. Then when we both of us simultaneously put the tablets in our mouths, his veins started to swell. For two good days when he laughed it seemed to the people as he is weeping. But it did not affect me in the least. He has suffered, Khalifatul Masih said,

hard time for them. He had been president of Khuddamul Ahmadiyya for a very lengthy period and suffered bitterness for their sake.

When the current of the electricity returned, Khalifatul Masih resuming the thread of his narration said, in Russia and other communist countries the children of their age are laboriously taken away from God. This results in depriving them of greater favours from God.

God the Exalted has shown favour with two kinds of bounties as explained in the Holy Quran: ZAHIRATAN WA BATINATAN—external and internal. External favours are good and proportionate diet, milk which each child should drink but the poor do not get it. Then there are proteins. People do not know what proportionate diet is but the Holy Quran has mentioned it.

2. Then amongst the favours of God there is dress to keep safe from the cold and the heat. Then there is the house.

3. If man falls sick due to his own mistakes, God has provided medicine for his cure, God has also ordained the order of prayer. When prayer is supplicated along with the use of drugs the cure is achieved speedily. Our doctors who have gone to Africa have received wide fame. It is only through the grace of God that their patients who were declared irremediable and beyond an operation were operated by the Ahmadi doctors in Africa which turned out successful. This resulted in attracting the rich people of the neighbouring countries to come to our hospitals and get themselves treated.

These countries who are trying to uproot the remembrance of God from the minds of the children they are in fact inflicting cruelty on them. They have deprived their children of this favour of God that when they fall sick their troubles could be dispensed with by prayer. Khalifatul Masih challenged that those disbelievers in God who think they are sitting in God's place should support those who have no support, but they have no power to do so. Hence, when all the hopes of the world are lost and not a ray of light is seen, then there comes God and says: I am your God, you need not worry. Khalifatul Masih said, this is the position in the world. But man is destined to die. His soul will live for ever. In this world, if one did not die in childhood and reaches maturity some live 30 years, 40 years, 50 years, 60 years, 70 years and some even live 100 to 120 years. Most people die within a hundred years. Nevertheless, the soul lives and shall enter paradise through the special grace and mercy of God the Exalted. These are the paradises of God's pleasure which he will receive.

So, these countries are depriving their children of these grand and everlasting favours of God the Exalted. These are also the children of this world. Hence, render thanks to God and recite ALHAMDO (proclaim all praise belongs to God) that you are not of those children from whose minds the name of God is obliterated. Rather you are the children in whose lives the reflections of the living powers of God the Exalted are being manifested. You and your elders bear witness to it that God the Exalted has knowledge of the unseen. Even if one lives to be a hundred in this world then what is all this worth if one is dragged in hell and suffers displeasure and wrath of God.

On the other side are the dwellers of paradise about whom it is said that they will wish only to have goodness and their every desire would be fulfilled. In this world there is no utmost righteous person whose every desire is fulfilled and in reality, it is unapproachable. But those children from whose minds the name of God is being eliminated are being deprived of these great favours of the life of the hereafter. The children are informed of the names of their grandfathers to keep them in their memory but regarding the existence of God the Exalted, they declared, that they themselves will come to know of Him if He exists in reality. Then why should they keep reminding them the names of their grandfathers, they will come to know of them in the same analogy. Things are not known themselves. The facts are manifested in this world. Their knowledge is imparted and taught, and it is then they are learned.

See for instance, the electricity is a great reality. It has illumined the world. It is electricity that is conveying the voice to the farthest end, and it lumines at night. What a great benefit it has given to the world. Now, it is only a lunatic who could say that though electricity does exist yet there is no need to make research on it, to impart its knowledge and to learn it. Man will himself come to know of it. All will say that the man has gone mad. Similarly, he who says that there is no need to mention the name of God, the child will himself come to know of Him, he is not using his common sense. The future of their children who inhabit such countries is not bright. Comparing such children with you Ahmadi children, Khalifatul Masih proclaimed, your future is far brighter, pleasing and replete with joys.

Again, there are capitalist countries, who think it is sufficient to attribute oneself towards any religion. They are deprived of the true fruits of faith and religion. Their entire efforts are for the world alone, and they are devoid of the spirit of JIHAD—great fight and of MUJAHIDAH—struggle and endeavour. Islam too has laid great stress on effort and endeavour as it says: LAIS LIL INSANIILLA MA SA'A—Man will have nothing but what he strives for. Allah says, My favours material as well as spiritual are countless but their achievement have been decreed in accordance with your efforts. Simultaneously, He says, that the efforts for the world should be made only for the sake of religion.

At any rate there is a great divergence between a child and another, yet your future is far more luminous than the children of the whole world. Because, God has given you a promise that through you Islam shall dominate. As you grow, learn the religion of Islam, offer supplications, create a living relationship with a Living God, sacrifise in His way, feel pain for mankind, your hearts will toss about restlessly for those who are away from God, and your hearts will be desirous that they too should recognize God and enter the circle of the love of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him) then through you and after your training, God the Exalted would dominante Islam all over the world, establish His love and the banner of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him) shall be hoisted in every heart. Each and every town shall echo with the voice of Muhammad Muhammad (peace and blessings of God be upon him). That time is fast approaching. It is for this reason that your God will love you limitlessly. This is your

future.

Your responsibility is great, nevertheless, it carries grand promises of spiritual and material progress. When you will serve those people and draw them close to God and present them with such abundant favours of God then what great reward He would bestow upon you. Your love will create love for you in their hearts. Then with what eagerness and happiness they will hear your talks and by your sides following step by step they will continue marching forward on the avenues of the nearness of God.

May ALlah the Exalted enable you to recognize the position of Atfalul Ahmadiyya, and to realize that you are the most fortunate children. In the present day world there is not any area, any nation, any religion and any ism whose children are more lucky than you. May Allah turn you as lucky in practice as He has declared you in His promises and glad tidings. Amen.

(*The Daily Alfazl,*
November 7, 1979)

A Glimpse of Service Rendered

Cont'd. from page 4

gely a compilation of mere old stories. The Promised Messiah (peace be on him) by preaching the above-stated principle refuted strongly the non-Muslim's outlook, and thus safeguarded the Holy Quran.

4. The fourth principle is connected with exalting the position of the Quran as compared with Hadith. The Promised Messiah (peace be on him) declared that in Islamic Law the Holy Quran occupied the first and foremost place while Hadith came after it; and if the Holy Quran and Hadith contradicted each other, the statement of the Holy Quran would be preferred to that of the other. The presentation of this principle protected the Holy Quran from being lowered by Ahle-Hadith, a sect of Muslim Community, who practically regard that Hadith has got authority over the Holy Quran.

5. The fifth principle which the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) announced to the people asserts that the Holy Quran not only forwards any claim but supplies also logical arguments in its proof. Other religious scriptures which the Holy Quran abrogated, for these being unable to meet human needs, lacked this characteristic and so compelled their followers to fabricate themselves the required arguments. But, on the contrary, the Holy Quran which is a perfect and an up-to-date Book, does not ignore such an important thing. In short, this idea provides to the interpreters an opportunity to look deeply into the Quranic Text, so that the required arguments may become disclosed to them.

6. The Promised Messiah (peace be on him) stated another principle which meant that, in the Holy Quran, repetition does not occur at all, because God's wisdom disallows to repeat what is said once. The Holy Quran apparently contains some repetition, but in fact every time there is a mention of quite a new subject matter, and he proved it.

In short, these principles are a few ones out of many; and quite vividly they reflect a glimpse of the glorious services which the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) rendered to the Holy Quran.

The Promised Messiah (peace be on him) devoted his services to the Holy Quran in another way as well. A spiritual community was created by him, whose members, in the real sense, abide by the true teachings of Holy Quran; and through them, its propagation, in different countries, is being carried on, so that in such a short period, millions of people have accepted the Holy Quran as their spiritual guide. And the time is not far when all the peoples and nations will submit themselves to this sacred Book. This credit of service also goes to the Promised Messiah (peace be on him).

The Holy Prophet Muhammad As Husband

Cont'd. from page 6

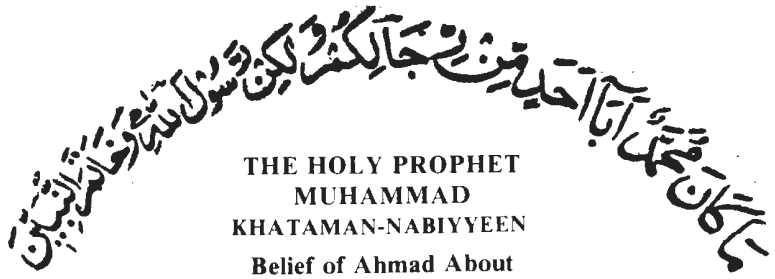
of the Believers. If you shirk and fail in the due discharge of your duty, certainly your punishment will be heavier, in comparison with other believing women, as you not only ruin yourself but will become the cause of ruin of many others."

ATTITUDE TOWARDS WORLDLY TREASURE

On another occasion, when the Holy Prophet received his share of booty, after his victory in the one of the battles, some of his wives came forward to claim a share of it. The Holy Prophet categorically declined to give them any portion out of these and said, "I am prepared to give you your respective shares of the booty, but on condition that you cannot, in that case, continue to be my partners. If you are devoted to me, purge your heart of all attachment for the treasure of this earth." These words of their husband, served as eye-opener to his wives, and with one voice, they said, "We wash our hands of all these earthly temptations. Verily, Allah and His Apostle are dearer to our heart than all these booties put together." God, probably approved of their spirit of self-abnegation, and in later life, gave abundance of earthly riches to these ladies.

A LOVING HUSBAND

But the Holy Prophet was not only a Preceptor; in his person he set the best example of a loving husband. A more considerate partner is seldom to be found elsewhere. He had the utmost deference for the feeling and sentiments of his wives. He set apart a portion of his valuable time in the midst of his multifarious preoccupations for his wives which he would spend in light discourse with them. Even in his excursions and expeditions he would take one of his wives with him by turn. He would talk with them according to the degree of intelligence and age of each. Ayesha was yet in her teens, when she married to the Holy Prophet. A party of Ethiopean gypsies came to Medina and sought permission to give a display of their sword tricks. The Holy Prophet grantd the permission and they were allowed to show their feats before the historic mosque of Medina. The Holy Prophet escorted Ayesha to the scene and stood with her in a secluded place nad allowed her to see the feats to her heart's content. It was only when she was thoroughly satisfied, that the Prophet retreated from the place.



THE HOLY PROPHET MUHAMMAD KHATAMAN-NABIYYEEN

Belief of Ahmad About Khataman Nabiyyeen

We reproduce here the belief of Hazrat Ahmad the Promised Messiah the Holy Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam in his own words regarding the Master Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of God be upon him) as Khataman Nabiyyeen—the seal of the Prophets. Ed.

"I swear by the glory of God and His Majesty that I am of the faithful, a Muslim and I believe in Allah, the High, in His Books, and in His messengers and in His angels and in life after death. And I believe that our Prophet Muhammad, the Elect of God (peace of Allah be on him and His blessings) is the most eminent of the prophets and the Seal of Apostles." (Hamamatulbushra, p. 8)

He again says:

"The charge made against me and my community that we do not believe the Messenger of Allah (peace be on him and His blessings) to be the Seal of Prophets is a big falsehood. The faith, the conviction, certitude and the utterness that characterize our belief in the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) as the Seal of Prophets, are markedly absent in the belief of these people (those who level this charge at us)." (Al-Hakam, 19th March, 1905)

Elaborating this solemn affirmation, the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) says:

"We believe that the Quran is the last book and the last law and after it there is no prophet till Doomsday in the sense of a law-giver or recipient of the Word of God independent of subordination to the Holy Prophet (peace of Allah be on him and His blessings). To be more explicit, as God Almighty has promised that the Holy Prophet (Allah bless him) is the Seal of Prophets, He has been further pleased to impliedly say that the Exalted One is, because of his spiritual eminence, like father unto the pious whose inner perfection is under-taken through subordination to him and who are honoured with the favour of Divine word and revelation. In accord therewith says the Lord of all Honour: MAA KAANA MUHAMMADUN ABAA AHADIN MIN REJAALE KUM WA LAKIN RASOOL-ALLAHE WA KHATAMAN NABIYYEEN.

"Muhammad (the blessed Prophet of Allah) is father unto none of your males but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the Prophets." (Sura Ahzab, V. 41)

"In short, in this verse, while in a way the fatherhood of the Holy Prophet (Allah bless him) has been denied (in relation to males) yet in another (the spiritual) form, his fatherhood has been confirmed so that the taunt of the enemies referred to in the verse INNA SHA'NI'AKA HOWAL ABTAR ("Surely it is thy enemy who is without issue") be, at the same time, disposed of. In brief, it means that prophethood even unaccompanied by law, though embargoed as a direct attainment, is nevertheless attainable, if received as a favour and reward, through the light of Muhammad (Allah bless him)." (Review on Mubahisae Chakralvi-ve Ahlihadis, pp. 6 and 7)

And yet again he says:

"Khatamannabiyyeen means (Muhammad the Messenger of ALlah is the Seal of Prophets) no prophethood can be bonafide without the certificate of his Seal. When a seal is stamped on a paper, it becomes certified and is treated as authentic (attested); similarly a prophethood not bearing the seal and attestation of the Holy Prophet (Allah bless him) is nt genuine." (Alhakam, Oct. 17, 1902)

He further says:

"Allah made the Prophet (peace be on him and His blessings) the Lord of the Seal and granted him for communication of excellence, the Seal that He gave to no other prophet.

"Therefore was he styled, the Seal of Prophets, i.e., subservience to him imparts the excellences of prophethood and that his spiritual indulgence has prophet-raising quality and that such holy proportions were not granted unto any other apostle." (Haqiqatul Wahi, pp. 96-97)

Elaborating his own claim, says the Promised Messiah (Allah bless him):

"I received this honour only through subservience to the Holy Prophet (peace be on him and His blessings). Had I not been of the Ummat of the Prophet (Allah bless him) and had I not followed him, I would never have been graced with Divine word and address even if my efforts and deeds matched the grandeur and height of all the mountains of the world, for, all prophethood except the Muhammadan Prophethood, has ended. No law-giving prophet shall ever come and a prophet without law may but only such as is primarily a follower of the Holy Prophet (Allah bless him). I am both a follower and a Prophet." (Tajalliyate Ilahiyya, pp. 24-25)

PRAYERS OF A MUSLIM

On entering the house a Muslim is enjoined to say:

ALLAHUMMA INNEE AS'ALOKA KHAIR-AL-MAULAJI WA KHAIRA-AL-MAKHRAJI BISMILLAHI WALAJNAA WA ALALLAHI RABINAA TAWAKKALNAA—O God I beseech Thee that I may be made to enter a goodly entering and to go forth goodly going forth. In the name of God do we enter and on God our Lord do we rely.

On taking a meal a Muslim is enjoined to say:

ALHAMDO LILLAHILLAZI AT'AMANAA WA SAQAANAA WA JA'ALANAA MINAL MUSLIMEEN—All praise belongs to God who has given us to eat and to drink and has made us Muslims.

KHALIFATUL MASIH'S HEALTH

According to the latest reports reaching us from Pakistan, Hazrat Hafiz Mirza Nasir Ahmad Khalifatul Masil III is enjoying good health. Members are requested to continue praying for Hazur's health, and for the rapid spread of Islam under his dynamic leadership.

JAMAAT ACTIVITIES REPORT

CHICAGO, ILL:—The Jamaat has been holding its Friday Services and Sunday meetings regularly.

Seeratun Nabi meeting was held on January 27th and was addressed by Br. Muhammad Rafi and Jabar Rafiq Ahmad on the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him).

The speeches were followed by a lengthy discussion on the teachings of Islam in which two visitors also took part. The meeting was rounded up with refreshments.

The Jamaat hosted a tea party in the honour of two brothers of Racine Jamaat who participated in this year's Annual Gatherings held at Qadian and Rabwah. Br. Abu Bakr and Br. Jalal Nuruddin explained the salient points of the Gatherings and their impressions of those sacred places of the Community.

The Jamaat has distributed all those copies of the Holy Quran which were purchased by it under Khalifatul Masih III's Scheme of widespread circulation of the Holy Book printed for the first time in the U.S.A. The Jamaat is making arrangements for purchase of further copies to continue this noble task.

The Jamaat's efforts have been crowned with success and a new convert Mr. Melvin Jones has embraced Ahmadiyyat the true Islam with Ghulam Ahmad his Muslim name. May Allah grant him steadfastness and empower him to become the true servant of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him).

A CRY IN THE WILDERNESS OF CIVILIZATION

Cont'd. from page 1

Again He wrote:

"Although I have prayed that like Jesus Christ, I too may not become means of idolatry and I firmly believe that God will accept my prayers, yet He has informed me again and again that He will give me great Glory and will implant my love in the hearts of mankind. He will spread my Movement in the whole world and will cause it to dominate over all other religions and denominations. And my followers shall advance so much in knowledge and religion that by means of arguments and heavenly signs they would silence every detractor. Every Nation shall drink deep at this fountain and this Movement shall spread with a great force, so much so that it would occupy the whole earth. Many obstacles and trials will come, but God will remove them all and fulfill His promise. God said to me, "I will bless you abundantly, so much so that kings shall seek blessings from your clothes." Remember these things therefore, O ye who are listening, and keep these propheeies in your safes, because it is the word of God which shall come to pass one day." (*Tajalliyyati Ilahiyya*, p. 21)

He declared to the whole world in 1900:

"By opposing me, my opponents are ruining themselves to no purpose. I am not such a plant as could be uprooted by them. If all their ancestors and all their descendents, all their living and all their dead, join together and pray for my destruction, my God will transform their prayers into curses and turn them against themselves. Hundreds of sensible people from your ranks are entering into my fold. There is a great noise in heaven and the angels of God are driving all righteous souls towards me. Now, is it possible for man to oppose this Divine Plan? Do oppose it with all your power if you can. Try all the deceptions and wicked designs employed by the opponents of all prophets in the past against me and leave no stone unturned to ruin my Mission.

Pray so much against me that you may die of crying and then see if you can harm me in the least." (*Supplement to Arbaeen*, Nos. 3 & 4, p. 7)

The Promised Messiah

Cont'd. from page 3

such a conglomeration gives to its members individually. Furthermore, it is laid down that on this earth, too, its people will be able to hold their heads aloft and be honoured and blessed. Anybody who is aware of the close friendship that characterises the followers of the Promised Messiah, and knows the importance which his followers enjoy in the eyes of the world cannot fail to note that this prophecy has also reached its fulfilment.

Later we may observe that the Prophets are blessed with extraordinary power of scholarship. Regarding the Quran, which is word by word Allah's dictation, God has challenged the greatest of the writers of Arabia to rival even ten passages in the lucidity and skill of that Holy Book. The challenge could not be met for the very sufficient reason that no man can rival what God dictates. In the case of hte Promised Messiah —although he brought no new Quran—which remains the final code for the world—yet various books and compositions of hte Promised Messiah bear testimony to his scholarly learning which, despite challenge, have not been rivalled or excelled.

Predictions and their fulfilment are also sought from a real Messenger. In the case of the Promised Messiah, myriads of them came true, and amongst others those about Lekhram, Sa'dullah, Dr. Dowie, Duleep Singh, and the Czar of Russia may be cited, as also regarding the ravages of plague, and the great Religious Conference of Lahore may be mentioned. Especially in the matter of warding off the plague it is worth noting that everyone within the four walls of the Promised Messiah's house was protected, as were Noah and his companions from the Great Deluge. A further emphasis on the law of God to destroy those who were religious pretenders may again be laid here as an additional point to show that because the Promised Messiah did not "Perish," but continued to flourish over 23 years after preaching his ministry, this lends additional support to his claims.

And yet another point can be made out, which is that the system of unwavering service of Islam that these Messengers leave as a legacy of love never dies with them, but grows and remains and thrives. It continues to bring heaven and earth into sweet and spiritual accord, and thereby is perpetuated the life-giving stream through the employment of active benevolence. Who does not see it thus acted in the life and work of the Promised Messiah? By means of these twelve test points of the Holy Quran the ministry of that Messenger is conclusively proved: and happy indeed are those who have found themselves in his blissful refuge.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH

(1) God has bestowed upon me the understanding of the Quran.

(2) God has taught me the language of the Quran in a miraculous manner.

(3) God accepts my prayers more than of any other persn.

(4) God has supported me with heavenly Signs.

(5) God has bestowed upon me Signs from the earth.

(6) God has promised me that I shall triumph over everyone who comes forward to oppose me.

(7) God has given me the good tidings that my followers will always triumph over others through their reasoning in support of the truth, and that they and their progeny will be greatly honoured in the world, so that they should see that he who comes to God never suffers loss.

(8) God has promised me that till the Day of Judgment He will continue to manifest my blessing so much so that kings will seek blessings from my garments.

(9) Twenty years ago, I was informed by God that I would be denied and that people would not accept me but that God would accept me and would manifest my truth through powerful assaults.

(10) God has promised me that for the purpose of repeating the light of my blessings, a person will be raised from among my progeny into whom God will breathe the blessings of the Holy Spirit. He will be characterized by inner purity and will have a chose holy relationship with God. He will be a manifestation of the True and the High as if God had descended from Heaven.

The time is coming near when God will spread far and wide the acceptance of this Movement. It will spread in the East and the West and the North and the South and Islam will become synonymous with this Movement. This is not said by any man. This is revelation from God for whom nothing is impossible. (Tohfah Golarviah, p. 90)

Had my claim been put forward on my own, you would have been free to reject me, but if God's Holy Prophet bears witness for me in his prophecies and God manifests His Signs in my support, then do not wrong yourselves by rejecting me. Say not that you are Muslims and have no need of accepting any Messiah:

I tell you truly that he who accepts me accepts him who has prophesied about me thirteen hundred years in advance, and had indicated the time of my appearance, and had specified my function; and he who rejects me rejects him who had commanded that I should be accepted. (Ayyamus Solh, p. 93)

GOOD EXAMPLE

The people of our Jamaat should present themselves as model. If one's life after making the Baiat is as impure and filthy as it was before the Baiat; and who being in our Jamaat demonstrates evil example and shows weakness in belief or in practice, then, he is unjust as he defames the entire Jamaat and makes us too the target of objection. Evil example creates hatred in others while good example attracts the people. . . . God prepares a diary of man's actions, hence, man too should keep an account book of his actions and should check, that how far he has advanced in doing good. Today's of man should not be the similar to that of yesterday. One whose yesterday and today are even in performing good, he indeed is at loss. A man who has a complete faith in God never perishes, rather millions are saved for his sake." (MALFOOZAT, Vol.10, pp. 136-137)

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